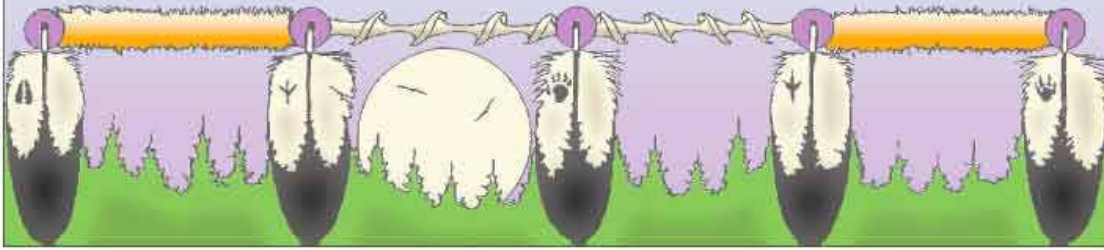


Menominee Nation News



Volume 24, Number 18

Saturday, September 23, 2000

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Homecoming Football Game a Victory for Eagle's



By Bridget Miller
Menominee Nation News

The Eagles varsity football team played a successful homecoming game and celebrated their first win ever with a 19-0 victory over the Oneida Thunderhawks on Friday, September 15th.

Many parents, grandparents, friends, and students attended the football game to cheer on their home town team.

The varsity team is in their second season and coached by Jeff Waukau. "We have improved a lot," said Waukau. "There are 33 (players) who have gone out for football this year," added Waukau, "and they are not missing practice like they were in the past."

See **HOMECOMING** page 3

Judge may not accept Matchopatow plea deal

Special to
Menominee Nation News

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A 24-year-old man pleaded guilty Monday to second-degree murder in the 1998 killing of a young woman on the Menominee reservation, but a federal judge asked prosecutors why the man was not charged with first-degree murder.

U.S. District Judge Charles N. Clevert said he might not accept the

See **PLEA** page 3

October 9th deadline set to file Nomination papers

By Yvonne M. Matson
Menominee Nation News

Nomination papers for the Menominee Tribal Legislature Election are now available for eligible tribal members at the Tribal Election Office (located in the Tribal Courts building) as of September 11, 2000 at 8:00 a.m.

See **LEGISLATURE** page 3

Indian Affairs head apologies for agency's 'legacy of racism'

By Matt Kelley
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs apologized for the agency's "legacy of racism and inhumanity"

that included massacres, forced relocations of tribes and attempts to wipe out Indian languages and cultures.

"By accepting this legacy, we accept also the moral responsibility of putting things right," Kevin Gover, a Pawnee Indian, said in an emotional

speech last Friday marking the agency's 175th anniversary.

Gover said he was apologizing on behalf of the BIA, not the federal government as a whole. Still, he is the

See **APOLOGY** page 4

Keeping a Menominee Tradition alive



MNNL Tucker

WILD RICING. Menominee Culture Class students paddle to a nearby rice bed to begin the annual gathering of wild rice. A feast was held a week later in celebration of the harvest season at the Menominee Logging Museum.

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HOMECOMING:

Two touchdowns were scored by Marcus Boyd during the second quarter and another one passed by Craig Penass to Dave Waupoose in the fourth quarter.

"They (players) are working hard and know where they are supposed to go," Waukau said. He also stated that the (football) program is getting better but sees a strong need for summer football camps in the area. Waukau hopes to coordinate with other agencies or departments in the area in holding camps for the youth so they can begin preparing for football at a younger age.

Homecoming festivities that day with a parade - where the seniors won first place for their 'Battle of Nations' Float. A dance was held later that evening at the MISD high school.

King and Queen were Marcus Denny and Talenna Peters. Other representatives were: Senior Class - Marcus Boyd and Kristi Aragon; Junior Class - Dave Waupoose and Carol Caldwell; Sophomore Class - Kyle Kakwitch and Tessa Peters; and Freshman Class - Tim Waupoose and Camille Grignon.

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PLEA DEAL:

plea deal arranged by prosecutors and Christopher B. Matchopatow, 24, who is charged with beating a girl to death and then setting her body on fire. First-degree murder carries a mandatory life sentence. Second-degree murder carries a more flexible sentence.

Assistant US Attorney Mario Gonzales said he was concerned that the government might not be able to prove the killing was premeditated, which is required for a first-degree murder conviction. "The question of premeditation is one the jury could go either way on," Gonzales told the judge.

Matchopatow admitted to beating Mary Tomow, 25, with a tire iron. He testified that he had been drinking heavily and does not remember setting her body on fire afterwards. Matchopatow said he met Tomow just hours before he killed her. The two had consensual sex in his car and afterward, he said, she threatened to get him in trouble for sexual assault. He said he got scared and killed her.

Defense lawyer James Rebholz said the plea agreement 'is a fair one on both sides.' If the judge rejects the plea agreement, Matchopatow would probably be allowed to withdraw his guilty plea.

APOLOGY:

highest-ranking US official ever to make such a statement regarding the treatment of American Indians. The audience of about 300 tribal leaders, BIA employees and federal officials stood and cheered as a teary-eyed Cover finished the speech.

"I thought it was a very heroic and historic moment," said Susan Fasten, chairwoman of California's Eureka tribe and president of the National Congress of American Indians. "For us, there was a lot of emotion in that apology. It's important for us to begin to heal from what has been done since non-Indian contact."

Lloyd Tortilla, the governor of New Mexico's ACM Pueblo tribe, welcomed the apology but said, "If we could get an apology from the whole government, that would be better." Although Cover's statement did not come from the White House, President Clinton's chief adviser on Indian issues, Lynn Cutler, said Gover sent her a copy of his speech late Thursday and the White House did not object to it.

Canada's government has formally apologized for abuses in government-run boarding schools for Indians but has rejected calls for a broader apology. Australian Prime Minister John Howard also has rebuffed repeated calls for an apology to that country's Aboriginal population for similar abuses there. Gover recited a litany of wrongs the BIA inflicted on Indians since its creation as the Indian Office of the War Department.

Estimates vary widely, but the agency is believed responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Indians. "This agency participated in the ethnic cleansing that befell the Western tribes," Gover said. "It must be acknowledged that the deliberate spread of disease, the decimation of the mighty bison herds, the use of the poison alcohol to destroy mind and body, and the cowardly killing of women and children made for tragedy on a scale so ghastly that it cannot be dismissed as merely the inevitable consequence of the clash of competing ways of life."

The misery continued after the BIA became part of the Interior Department in 1849, Gover said. Children were brutalized in BIA-run boarding schools, Indian languages and religious practices were banned and traditional tribal governments were eliminated, he said. The high rates of alcoholism, suicide and violence in Indian communities today are the result, he said. "Poverty, ignorance and disease have been the product of this agency's work," Gover said. Now, 90 percent of the BIA's 10,000 employees are Indian and the agency has changed into an advocate for tribal governments.

"Never again will we attack your religions, your languages, your rituals, or any of your tribal ways," Gover promised. "Never again will we seize your children, nor teach them to be ashamed of who they are. Never again."

LEGISLATURE:

Only one hundred (100) signatures are needed to file. It was incorrectly stated in the last issue of Menominee Nation News that two-hundred signatures were needed. The deadline for filing nomination papers is October 9, 2000 at 4:00 p.m.

All three incumbents - Barbara Frechette-Kelley, Lisa S. Waukau, and James C. Wayka - whose terms will expire in February 2001, plan to run for reelection. The Primary Election will be held November 8 & 9, 2000.

Enrolled tribal members can cast their vote at the Neopit Fire station on November 8th or at the Tribal Offices Boardroom on November 9th. Polls will be open from 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. The Final Election will be held January 10 & 11, 2001.